

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A spool valve comprising:
 - a housing defining an inner bore;
 - a porting sleeve positioned at a fixed axial position within said inner bore;
 - a piston movable within said porting sleeve;
 - a C-ring holding said porting sleeve at said axial position relative to said housing, said C-ring being received in a groove in said inner bore of said housing, said C-ring further being received in a groove in at least two separate circumferentially spaced holding members together defining a support for a radially inner portion of said C-ring.
2. A spool valve as recited in Claim 1, wherein a closure plate is positioned between said porting sleeve and said support structure.
3. A spool valve as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said holding members are part-circular members, each having a groove portion at a radially outer peripheral surface for receiving said C-ring.
4. A spool valve as set forth in Claim 3, wherein a locking plate includes support structure positioned circumferentially between circumferential ends of said holding members, to provide effective full circumferential support for said radially inner portion of said C-ring.

5. A spool valve as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said locking plate is fixed axially outwardly of said holding members along an axis extending through said bore.
6. A spool valve as set forth in Claim 5, wherein a closure plate is positioned between an axially outer end of said porting sleeve and said holding members, said locking plate being fixed to said closure plate.

7. An assembly including a C-ring securing two parts comprising:
 - a first part defining a bore;
 - a second part received within said bore; and
 - a C-ring received in a groove in one of said first and second parts, said C-ring being provided with at least two separate, distinct holding members preventing axial movement of said first part relative to said second part along an axis of said bore, including a part groove for supporting said C-ring.
8. An assembly as recited in Claim 7, wherein said one of said first and second parts is said first part.
9. An assembly as recited in Claim 7, wherein said holding members are part-circular members, each having a groove portion for receiving said C-ring.
10. An assembly as recited in Claim 9, wherein a locking plate includes support structure positioned circumferentially between circumferential ends of said holding members to provide effective full circumferential support for said C-ring.
11. An assembly as recited in Claim 10, wherein said locking plate is fixed axially outwardly of said holding members along an axis extending through said bore.
12. An assembly as recited in Claim 11, wherein a closure plate is positioned between an axially outer end of the other of said first and second parts and said support structure, said locking plate being fixed to said closure plate.

13. A method of assembling a C-ring comprising the steps of:

- (1) providing a first part having a bore, and a second part;
- (2) inserting said second part within said bore;
- (3) inserting a C-ring within a groove in said bore of said first part; and

(4) inserting a first part circular member extending for less than 180° within said C-ring, and moving said first part-circular member to engage said C-ring, and then moving at least a second part circular member within said C-ring and moving said second part-circular member to engage said C-ring, said first and second part-circular members providing support for said C-ring, such that said C-ring prevents movement of said second part axially outwardly of said bore.